

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and request reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks. The applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 5 are allowable.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 6, 9, 11-14, 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,420,008 to *Lewis et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,785,144 to *Akram*, and claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lewis* in view of *Akram* as applied above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,774,434 to *Bennion*.

Claim 1 of the subject application is directed to an electrically active textile article comprising fabric, a circuit including traces and pads on a substrate secured to the fabric, and at least one electronic component populating the circuit.

Lewis is directed to a display sticker with an integral flasher circuit and power source. A thin flexible sheet 12 has a printed circuit board 14 adhesively affixed to its back surface 16. The front surface of the sticker may have printed thereon a product or company name, or other advertising indicia. The sticker preferably includes a pre-punched hole 24 through the flexible sheet 12 for an LED 26. The front surface of the circuit board is flat and free of components except for the LED. *See* Col. 3, lines 21-38 of *Lewis*. The LED attracts the attention of a desired observer to the sticker.

The Examiner alleges that *Lewis* discloses all of the elements of the applicants' claimed invention except for a circuit including traces and pads on a substrate, and further alleges that it would have been obvious to construct the circuit with traces and pads as

suggested by *Akram* since these traces and pads are commonly used in printed circuit boards to interconnect various electronic components.

However, as shown above, *Lewis* is merely a display sticker with an LED to attract the attention of an observer to the sticker. *Lewis* does not provide any motivation, teaching or suggestion to include traces and pads on the substrate as claimed by the applicant in independent claims 1, 24 and 26. As noted by the Examiner, traces and pads are used to interconnect various electronic components. However, *Lewis* teaches away from having various electronic components on the circuit board. *Lewis* specifically discloses that only one electronic component is disposed on the circuit board. *Lewis* states that “[t]he front surface of the circuit board is flat and free of components except for an LED” (emphasis added). Col. 3, lines 35-37 of *Lewis*. Since the disclosure of *Lewis* is limited to only one electronic component on the circuit board, there would be no reason to modify *Lewis* to include traces and pads to connect multiple electronic components. Accordingly, *Lewis* teaches away from including traces and pads on the circuit board as claimed by the applicant. Therefore, it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to modify *Lewis* to include traces and pads as disclosed in *Akram*.

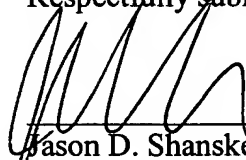
As *Lewis* teaches away from the disclosure of *Akram*, independent claims 1, 24 and 26, and their respective dependent claims, are patentable over the cited references.

Each of the Examiner’s rejections has been addressed or traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please

telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, at
(781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



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